

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DOTE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

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SUBJ: POLITICKING, STRIKES, AND VIOLENCE CONTINUE

REF: SANTIAGO 4015

1. SUMMARY. CAMPAIGN TO FORCE ALLENDE'S DEPARTURE FROM PRESIDENCY CONTINUES, BUT PDC DISSOCIATED ITSELF FROM ATTEMPT TO DECLARE HIM INCAPACITATED. MEDICAL GUILDS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH GOVT, BUT MERCHANTS EXTENDED STRIKE AND NO PROGRESS REPORTED ON TRANSPORT STRIKE. BOMBS IN SANTIAGO AND SEVERAL CLASHES IN PROVINCIAL CAPITALS MARKED AFTERMATH OF UP AND OPPOSITION RALLIES. END SUMMARY.

2. OPPOSITION PRESS CONTINUES TO PUBLICIZE CAMPAIGN TO FORCE ALLENDE'S RESIGNATION. COMMITTEE OF WOMEN ALLEGEDLY REPRESENTING GUILDS IN TEN PROVINCES MET WITH OPPOSITION SENATORS SEPT 6 TO DEMAND CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF ALLENDE'S INCOMPETENCE; SHOULD CONGRESS FAIL TO RESPOND, SAID WOMEN, THEY WOULD "KNOCK ON THE DOORS OF MILITARY BARRACKS" TO DEMAND THAT ARMED FORCES "SAVE THE COUNTRY." IN REPLY, PDC PRES AYLWIN TOLD WOMEN THAT

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PDC SHARED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT PRESENT SITUATION BUT ARGUED THAT

THEIR PROPOSAL IN NEITHER "THE MOST CONVENIENT NOR EFFICIENT" METHOD OF ACHIEVING THEIR GOAL. AYLWIN ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT GOVT/ PDC DIALOGUE IS ENDED UNTIL GOVT MAKES POLICY "RECTIFICATIONS." PN SEN BULNES TOLD WOMEN HE TOTALLY ENDORSED THEIR PETITION, ADDING THAT PDC HOPEFULLY WOULD SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO DO SO AS WELL.

3. ALLENDE TERMED PDC PROPOSAL TO IMPEACH VARIOUS MINISTERS STRICTLY POLITICAL; VARIOUS MINISTERS TOLD REPORTERS THEY WOULD MAKE "VIGOROUS" DEFENSE AT APPROPRIATE TIME. CHAMBER REJECTED PN PROPOSAL TO IMPEACH COMMUNIST GOVERNOR OF CONCEPCION PROVINCE; PDC ABSTAINED.

4. MEDICAL GUILDS INCLUDING DOCTORS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH GOVT, ENDING PROLONGED STRIKE. MERCHANTS, HOWEVER, EXTENDED THEIR STRIKE WHICH NOW INCLUDES MOST FOODSTORES, WITH SOME SHOPKEEPERS ORGANIZATIONS NOW ON "INDEFINITE" WORK STOPPAGE. LAN PILOTS AND DRUGSTORES JOINED STRIKE. AS FOR TRANSPORTATION STRIKE, GOVT REITERATED PREVIOUS STATEMENT THAT NEW VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ONLY TO THOSE WILLING TO WORK. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES COMMITTEE HELD HEARINGS SEPT 6 ON TRANSPORT SITUATION, ATTENDED BY MININTERIOR BRIONES, MINPUBLIC WORKS GEN MAGLIOCCHETTE, AND LAN TRANSPORT CONFEDERATION (RODADO) OFFICERS. BRIONES EMPHASIZED THAT STRIKERS PROPOSAL TO HAVE ANY EVENTUAL AGREEMENT ENSHRINED IN A LAW PASSED BY CONGRESS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO GOVT. FUNERAL FOR STRIKER KILLED IN LEYDA SHOOTING SEPT 4 DREW REPRESENTATIVES OF MOST GUILDS AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES; SOME MINOR INCIDENTS RESULTED IN SAN ANTONIO FROM LEFTIST HECKLING OF FUNERAL CORTEGE ON WAY TO CEMETARY. PRES ALLENDE DESCRIBED PN'S CALL FOR NATIONAL STRIKE (REFTEL) AS "PLAYING WITH FIRE," RHETORICALLY ASKING WHAT IT IS THAT PN IS AFTER.

5. BOMBS EXPLODED IN BRANCH BANK IN SANTIAGO'S PROVIDENCIA RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, HOME OF HEAD OF MAJOR HOSPITAL, AND A PDC NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE; UNEXPLODED DEVICE WAS PLACED IN FRONT OF A DOWNTOWN STORE. SEVERAL IMPORTANT CLASHES IN PROVINCIAL CITIES WERE REPORTED, ESPECIALLY CONCEPCION, LOS ANGELES, AND VALDIVIA. SHOOTING INCIDENT OCCURRED BETWEEN POLICE AND ALLEGED LEFTISTS IN SOUTHERN SECTOR OF SANTIAGO. NAVY CONDUCTED ARMS SEARCH OF EAST GERMAN SHIP IN VALPARAISO BEARING DONATED FOODSTUFFS, INSPIRING SHARPLY CRITICAL COMMENTS IN UP PRESS. BUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OWNERS VISITED PRES ALLENDE TO RENEW DEMANDS FOR POLICE PROTECTION FOR OPERATING VEHICLES. A VENEZUELAN WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED IN JULY 25 SHOOTING INCIDENT WHICH COST LIFE OF UP TRADE UNION LEADER (SANTIAGO 3342); INCIDENT UNDERLINED BY OPPOSITION AS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL CHILEAN AFFAIRS BY LEFTIST FOREIGNERS. PATRIA Y LIBERTAD LEADER ROBERTO THIEME WAS ALLOWED TO TALK TO OPPOSITION MEDIA LONG ENOUGH TO CLAIM HIS ARREST WAS PART OF WILLFUL PYL EFFORT TO

EMERGE FROM CLANDESTINITY TO ASSUME ACTIVE OVERT ROLE IN CHILEAN POLITICAL LIFE. MINJUSTICE SERGIO INSUNZA HELD PRESS CONFERENCE TO EMPHASIZE PURPORTED BENEFITS TO BE ACHIEVED BY GOVT'S PROPOSED ANTI-TERRORISM BILL NOW PENDING IN CONGRESS.

6. GENERALS (RET) PICKERING AND SEPULVEDA ISSUED SEPARATE PUBLIC LETTERS DENYING THEIR RETIREMENTS WERE LINKED TO GEN PRATS' RESIGNATION AND DEPLORING ATTEMPTS (PRESUMABLY BY OPPOSITION) TO SEEK POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN THEIR RETIREMENTS.

7. RIGHTWING PRESS REPORTS INSISTENCE ON IMMEDIATE RETIREMENT OF NAVY CINC ADM RAUL MONTERO INCREASING, WITH ELEVATION OF ADM JOSE MERINO TO CINC POST FORECAST "SOON." THESE REPORTS CITE FACT THAT FLEET HAS YET TO SAIL FROM VALPARAISO TO PARTICIPATE IN UNITAS EXERCISES TO SUPPORT THEIR SPECULATION.
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